

January 2009

Santa Rosa County District 5 Newsletter

A Message From Your Commissioner



**District 5
Commissioner
Lane Lynchard**

Contact
6495 Caroline Street
Suite M
Milton, FL 32570

Phone:
(850) 983-1877 WK

E-mail:
comm-lynchard@
santarosa.fl.gov

Fax:
(850) 983-1856



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Growing up in Milton, the downtown area and the Imogene Theatre were always a link to the past in our county. I recently spent an afternoon with someone who is very involved in the revitalization of the downtown area. He took me on a behind the scenes look at the historic district. It gave me a new appreciation for the City of Milton. I saw an exciting and vibrant commercial community. I met many business owners and residents who are making every effort to ensure that we have a thriving historic district that draws people in not only from our community, but from all over the region. It is important for everyone in Santa Rosa County to realize what our county seat has to offer. The downtown district is our window into the past, and through the efforts of determined individuals it will be our gateway to the future.



Due to the fire on January 6, the landscape of Milton has changed and we have lost some of our history. When disasters strike, we have to pull together as a community to support one another. While the damage may not rival hurricanes Ivan or Dennis in scope, to those affected it is every bit as devastating. We must remember that there are many small businesses in the downtown area that did not suffer physical damage from the fire, but may face economic damage from the cleanup and construction that will soon be taking place. I ask that everyone make an

effort to support our neighbors who are trying to revitalize downtown Milton. Visit the shops, restaurants and businesses downtown. Let them know that you appreciate what they are trying to accomplish.

For business owners, this is a reminder that you should have a business continuity plan in place. Our county's emergency management division has informational packets available for businesses and individuals to assist in such planning.

I also want to express my gratitude to the firefighters who battled the blaze and prevented further damage, and to the law enforcement officers who maintained order during the confusion. We must never take for granted the men and women who work to protect us all. In these economic times, it is not just the businesses in Milton that need our help, but our entire county. To that end, I urge everyone to support Santa Rosa County businesses. Many restaurants, retail businesses and service industry businesses have closed their doors in our county over the past year. We need to pull together as a county to support the businesses in our communities.

Many people who live in one end of our county are not aware of what is going on just a short drive north or south. Take a day one weekend and drive to the other end of Santa Rosa to see what our diverse county has to offer.

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We are in the midst of our economic times, but we will prevail. We are not in this alone, as the entire country has been affected by the recession. Santa Rosa County will stay the course, and your local government will do everything it can to ensure that our county prospers and grows. I know the future is bright for Santa Rosa County, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your County Commissioner.

- Lane Lynchard
District 5 Commissioner

District 5 Recreation Improvements on the way

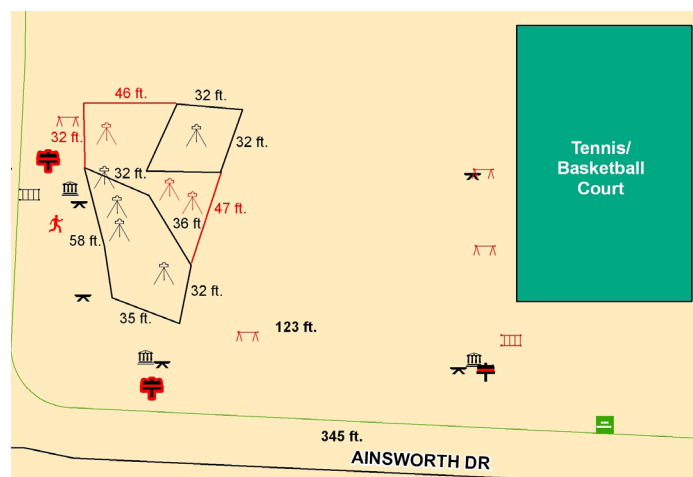
Playground equipment and site amenities were ordered in December for various parks in District 5. The many improvements will surely enhance these eight neighborhood parks and provide a greater quality of life for our citizens. Installation of these items is expected to take place the first and second week of March of this year.

- Bal Alex Boat Ramp Park located at 4180 Sandy Bluff Drive will receive three benches and a bike rack.
- La Leyenda Park located at 3359 La Leyenda Court will receive a see saw, two spring riders, a tot swing, a three-station wellness center, a balance beam, two benches and a grill. A 12x12 pavilion has recently been built with a picnic table under.
- Oriole Beach Boat Ramp Park located at 3165 Linden Avenue will receive two benches and a bike rack.
- Reservation Park located at 1228 Ainsworth Drive will receive a 2-5 age group, 7 play event, 20-25 children capacity play structure; a 5-12 age group, 7 play event, 20-25 children capacity play structure; a spider net; a spring rider; a 2-seat tot swing; a 3-station wellness center; four benches, a bike rack, and two grills.
- Sandpiper Village Park located at 2728 Sunrunner Lane will receive a see saw, two spring riders, a tot swing, a 3-station wellness center, two benches, four grills, and a bike rack.
- Villa Venyce Park located at Gondolier Boulevard will receive a 5-12 age group, 11 play event, 30-35 children capacity play structure; a whirl (merry-go-round), a see saw, a track ride, a 2-seat swing, a 3-station wellness center, three benches, a bike rack, and a grill.
- Woodlawn Beach Boat Ramp Park located at 1400 Woodlawn Beach Road will receive two benches and a bike rack.
- Swenson Park located at corner of Circle Lane and Circle Drive got their tennis court resurfaced and got a multi striping job which included 4-square, hop scotch, and shuffle board.



Above: Reservation Park as it stands today.

Below: The planning map for improvements at La Reservation Park.





Santa Rosa District 5 News

Two New Traffic Signals Planned for U.S. Highway 98

A new signalized intersection is programmed at Whisper Bay Boulevard and U.S. Highway 98 for 2009. The intersection will be modified to serve the Whisper Bay and Crane Cove Boulevard communities with a new traffic signal. Right-of-way agreements were finalized this month for the construction of a new county road through the cinema and shopping center properties. Roadway construction plans and specifications are in design/permitting by Santa Rosa County Engineering and a traffic engineering consultant will be selected next week to design/permit the new signal. This corridor management project is Santa Rosa County's number one priority and is slated for bid this spring.

Several safety upgrades to U.S. Highway 98 at Mustang and Coral streets in Navarre are currently underway. Improvements include the closure of the median opening on U.S. Highway 98 at Mustang Street, removal of the U.S. Highway 98 west bound left turn lane at Mustang Street, construction of a new paved median opening on U.S. Highway 98 at Coral Street, and construction of an east bound left turn lane on U.S. Highway 98 at Coral Street. FDOT crews began work on January 5 and should complete their construction later this month. These median modifications are part of a Santa Rosa County corridor management project to install a traffic signal on U.S. Highway 98 at Coral Street this summer.

These improvements on U.S. Highway 98 are safety upgrades recommended in the U.S. Highway 98 Corridor Management Report developed by the Pensacola Transportation Planning Organization or TPO. The entire report may be viewed at the following link: <http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/engineering/documents/us98cmrfinal.pdf>. FDOT is providing 100% project funding through the TPO priority process.

Santa Rosa County Ambulance Service Update

Santa Rosa County's ambulance service provider, Lifeguard Ambulance Service, continues to exceed the county's compliance standards in the first quarter of the fiscal year. For the months of October, November and December, Lifeguard Ambulance met the response time requirements more than 90 percent of the time, based on fractile response time, not an average, as required by contract:

October

- Total calls: 1,197
- Met response time requirements 93.27 percent for rural calls
- Met response time requirements 93.02 percent for urban calls
- Met response time requirements 93.05 percent for combined calls

November

- Total calls: 1,262
- Met response time requirements 92.71 percent for rural calls
- Met response time requirements 93.53 percent for urban calls
- Met response time requirements 93.45 percent for combined calls

December

- Total calls: 1,268
- Met response time requirements 92.94 percent for rural calls
- Met response time requirements 92.80 percent for urban calls
- Met response time requirements 92.81 percent for combined calls

Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

Santa Rosa County is declaring January 18-24 as "Hazardous Materials Awareness Week" with an emphasis on "sheltering-in-place." The purpose is to increase resident, business and community awareness of the importance of being prepared and knowing what to do before, during and after a chemical or hazardous materials incident. Residents are urged to learn what steps to take when officials issue a shelter-in-place notice. For more information, visit www.santarosa.fl.gov and scroll down to fact sheet #12 entitled "Your County, Your Government- It Can Happen Here" under "What's Hot." Information provided includes a thorough supply list and instructions on how to shelter-in-place at home, at work and in automobiles.

The recent incidents in Santa Rosa County draw attention to the fact that accidents can and will happen anywhere. The train and plane accidents could easily have required sheltering in place had circumstances been different in each situation. If the fire in Milton had occurred in a different location, there could have been chemicals in the smoke plume.

It is vital that all citizens know what actions to take when a shelter-in-place is ordered. Once given, it is too late to begin the preparation process. It is important to have a family plan set in place should an incident occur so that necessary steps are taken immediately to ensure the safety of loved ones. Some supplies you may need are duct tape, plastic sheeting, first-aid supplies, extra batteries and pet supplies.

Learning how to identify the presence of hazardous material as well as other potential hazards around the community should be done during Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. Hazardous materials are usually found in chemical plants, water treatment facilities, and on railways, local roads and highways, possibly creating a need for sheltering in place. Chemicals can be hazardous to humans or the environment if used or released improperly. Chemical hazards can occur during production, storage, transportation, use or disposal in any community.

How to Shelter-in-place at Home:

- Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.
- Close window shades, blinds, or curtains, to protect eyes in case of danger of explosion.
- Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems and close fireplace damper.
- Go to an interior room with the fewest windows. Take your pets with you.
- It is ideal to have a hard-wired telephone in the room you select. Cellular telephone equipment may be overwhelmed or damaged during an emergency. Use your phone for emergencies only!
- Use duct tape and plastic sheeting to seal all cracks around the door, windows and any vents into the room.
- Use wet towel to seal the crack at the bottom of exterior doors.
- Keep listening to your radio or television until you are told all is safe.
- Once the all clear has been announced, open up all windows and turn on the air system. Go outside and let your house ventilate for at least 30 minutes.

